

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 18

Summer Announcement # 16, District 4 Subsistence Fishing Schedules

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

In preparation for another potentially poor Yukon River Chinook salmon run, subsistence fishermen are strongly encouraged to voluntarily reduce their Chinook salmon harvest to not exceed 25% of their average annual harvest to help ensure adequate escapement. For example, a family that normally harvests 40 Chinook salmon should consider taking only 10 this year. Fishermen should consider shifting harvest to other salmon species, where possible, to supplement a reduced Chinook salmon harvest.

Consistent with conservative management actions taken in Districts 1-3, gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size in District 4 and the Koyukuk River to conserve Chinook salmon.

Subsistence salmon fishing will be closed to protect the first pulse of Chinook salmon. It is likely the closure will be extended if inseason assessment indicates that it is necessary to protect the second pulse. The closure has been initiated in the lower river and will be similarly implemented in District 4 based on migratory timing. The department will notify fishermen by June 28 concerning the subsistence salmon fishing schedule in District 4.

Subdistrict 4-A (from $\frac{3}{4}$ miles downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Cone Point, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Anvik, Grayling, Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk):

Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistrict 4-A consists of two 48-hour periods each week, from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 6:00 p.m. Fridays and from 6:00 p.m. Sundays until 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon. By regulation, fishermen in Subdistrict 4-A may use drift gillnets during scheduled subsistence salmon fishing periods on the mainstem of the Yukon River from June 10 to July 14.

Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C (from Cone Point to Illinois Creek, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Galena and Ruby):

Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C consists of two 48-hour periods each week, from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 6:00 p.m. Fridays and from 6:00 p.m. Sundays until 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

State regulations do not allow the use of drift gillnets in State waters of Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C. Federal regulations allow the use of drift gillnets in Federal waters of Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C. Subsistence salmon fishermen should consult both State and Federal regulations before subsistence fishing. Subsistence fishermen wishing to utilize drift gillnet gear in these subdistricts should contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (907) 949-1825 or 456-0418 to verify the fishing schedule, gear restrictions, and specific locations where the gear may be used.

Koyukuk River: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADFG office in Fairbanks at 459-7274 or in Emmonak at 949-1320. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can be contacted in Fairbanks at 456-0418 or in Emmonak at 949-1825.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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